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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 1:41pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The proposed settlement in the Microsoft case is a bit like assigning a fox to guard your chicken coop in that it virtually guarantees Microsoft a lock on an endless series of software upgrades that the recipients can ill afford. If they could afford the technology, they wouldn't need the handout and if they can't afford the upgrades, the computers and software will rapidly become obsolete and of limited use.

The counterproposal put forward by Red Hat makes much more sense: ie, Let Microsoft donate money for hardware computing resources for underfunded schools, then load those machines with open-source software.

Open-source software will have two benefits. First, it will set schools on a course that they can afford. The cost of obtaining open-source software and upgrades is minimal. Secondly, the Red Hat proposal does not reward Microsoft in the long term.

The currently proposed settlement merely provides Microsoft with a guaranteed long-term cash cow instead of punishment for corporate misdeeds resulting in market domination.

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